

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 10, and 18 have been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 5, 14, and 22, respectively. Claims 7, 16, and 24 have been amended to comply with the newly amended base claims from which they depend. Claims 2-5, 11-14, 19-22, 26, and 27 have been canceled. These claims are being reserved for future filings. Claims 1, 6-9, 10, 15-18, and 23-25 remain in the application. The amendments introduce no new matter into this application and only place the case in condition for allowance.

Claims 5, 14, and 22 are allowable but rejected because they depend upon rejected base claims.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claims 2, 3, 4, and 5, i.e. including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 1 (claim 5 rewritten in independent form) is now allowable. Claim 7, which is dependent upon claim 1 through claim 6, has been amended so that the language now complies with the newly amended base claim. Claims 6-9 depend

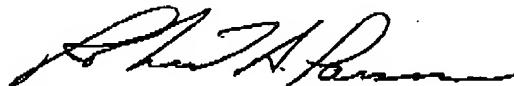
upon claim 1, which is now allowable, and, therefore, claims 6-9 are now allowable.

Applicants have amended claim 10 to include all of the limitations of claims 11, 12, 13, and 14, i.e. including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 10 (claim 14 rewritten in independent form) is now allowable. Claim 16, which is dependent upon claim 10 through claim 15, has been amended so that the language now complies with the newly amended base claim. Claims 15-17 depend upon claim 10, which is now allowable, and, therefore, claims 15-17 are now allowable.

Applicants have amended claim 18 to include all of the limitations of claims 19, 20, 21, and 22, i.e. including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 18 (claim 22 rewritten in independent form) is now allowable. Claim 24, which is dependent upon claim 18 through claim 23, has been amended so that the language now complies with the newly amended base claim. Claims 23-25 depend upon claim 18, which is now allowable, and, therefore, claims 23-25 are now allowable.

Thus, applicants believe that Claims 1, 6-9, 10, 15-18, and 23-25, all of the claims remaining in the application, are now in condition for allowance. The amendments introduce no new matter into this application but simply place the claims in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicants believe that the subject application is now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully requested,



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